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Letter dated 20 September 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General*

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine of 1 September 2017 on the blocking of the activities of the sole temple of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyiv Patriarchate by the Russian occupation authorities in Crimea (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 72 (c), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Reissued for technical reasons on 8 November 2017; previously issued under the symbol A/C.3/72-S/2017/798.

17-16956* (E) 091117

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Annex to the letter dated 20 September 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on blocking the activities of the sole temple of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyiv Patriarchate by the Russian occupation authorities in Crimea

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine condemns blocking of the activities of the Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Princes Vladimir and Olga temple, the sole and only acting temple in Simferopol of the Crimean Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyiv Patriarchate, by the occupation authorities on August 31, 2017.

The Russian occupation authorities continue their policy aimed at hindering the activities of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP) on the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and is doing everything possible to stop its activities on the territory of Crimea. The capture of church premises has been carried out on the peninsula, its property is illegally seized, searches are carried out in its premises, and pressure is being exerted on clergymen since the beginning of the occupation of Crimea by the Russian Federation. Such actions of the occupation authorities are systematic violations of fundamental human rights and freedoms, in particular freedom of conscience and religion, norms of international law.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine demands from the Russian Federation to restore unhindered access of the UOC-KP believers to the temple in Simferopol immediately, to stop religious persecution and interference in the activities of the Crimean eparchy of the UOC-KP and to ensure fulfillment of obligations under international law.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine calls upon the international community, in particular the European Union and its member states, the United States, Canada and other democratic countries, international organizations, in particular the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the OSCE to condemn the attack on the Ukrainian temple in Simferopol.

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Letter dated 20 September 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General*

I have the honour to transmit herewith the comment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine of 8 September 2017 on the groundless arrest by the FSB of the Russian Federation of a citizen of Ukraine, Pavlo Grib (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 72 (c), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 20 September 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Comment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the groundless arrest of the FSB of the Russian Federation of a citizen of Ukraine Pavlo Grib

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses its strong protest to the Russian side on the groundless arrest on August 25, 2017, of the 19-year-old citizen of Ukraine Pavlo Grib and his imprisonment in Krasnodar, the Russian Federation.

The Ministry strongly condemns the persecution by the Russian authorities of citizens of Ukraine in Russia and abroad, the groundless arrests of Ukrainians, violations of their right to a fair trial and condemnations on fabricated politically motivated cases.

Russia's practice of systematical violation the provisions of the Consular Convention between Ukraine and the Russian Federation regarding timely information on the arrests of Ukrainian citizens (within 3 days from the moment of arrest) and condoning the right of the consul of Ukraine to visit an arrested or convicted compatriot is extremely unacceptable. In the case of the arrest of Pavlo Grib, a message from the FSB Office in the Krasnodar as of August 25, 2017, was sent to the Consulate General of Ukraine in Rostov-on-Don by registered letter only on August 31, 2017 and received by the consular post on September 7, 2017 — 14 days after the arrest.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine requires the Russian side to provide immediately access for Ukrainian consuls to arrested Ukrainian citizen Pavlo Grib, comprehensive information on the place, reasons and circumstances of his arrest, conditions of detention and to ensure his immediate return to Ukraine.

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Letter dated 20 September 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General*

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine of 11 September 2017 on the decision of the Crimean occupation authorities in the case of Ahtem Ciygoz (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 72 (c), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 20 September 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the MFA of Ukraine on the decision of the Crimean occupation authorities in the case of Ahtem Ciygoz

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses its resolute protest over the illegal sentence of Ukrainian citizen Ahtem Ciygoz by the Russian occupation authorities on the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea to 8 years of imprisonment.

Ahtem Ciygoz, the Deputy Chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People, was punished by the Russian occupants for his support of territorial integrity of Ukraine and his fight for human rights. It is yet another manifestation of Russia's repressive policy on the Crimean peninsula, aimed at suppressing dissent voices and opposition to the Kremlin regime, as well as yet another evidence of discrimination against Crimean Tatars.

We demand from the Russian Federation to release Ahtem Ciygoz, to stop repressions against Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians on the territory of the occupied Crimea and to restore the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

We call on the international community to consistently respond to the cynical human rights violations in Crimea and to strengthen the political and diplomatic pressure on the Kremlin in order to ensure the return of the aggressor state to the tenets of international law.